

## PETERLEE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Town Council** meeting held on **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025** at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Shotton Hall, Peterlee.

**Present:** Councillor R. Moore (Mayor) and Councillors J. Black, P. Brown, D. Burrell, M-L. Franklin, S. Franklin, D. Hawley, K. Hawley, D. Howarth, A. Laing, I. Pygall, S. Simpson, and D. Wright

**Also Present:** Ian Hall (Chief Officer and Town Clerk), Deborah Woodhall (Resources Manager), and David Anderson (Locum Democratic Services Manager) and Louise Hudson (Democratic Services Assistant)

### **C.112/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors, M.A. Cartwright, P. Cartwright, B. Fishwick, D. Meadows, H. Pygall and M. Tough.

**RESOLVED:** That the apologies be noted.

### **C.113/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

### **C.114/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No Public were present.

### **C.115/25 MONTHLY UPDATES FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Councillor S Franklin reported that Lord-Lieutenant, Susan Snowdon planned to retire on 1 April 2026 and that the King had appointed Michael Butterwick, CBE, DL, as His Majesty's next Lord-Lieutenant of the County of Durham.

The Chair expressed his well wishes to the Lord-Lieutenant and offered his congratulations to Michael Butterwick.

### **C.116/25 MINUTES**

a. Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2025

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the above meeting be approved.

### **C.117/25 DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, regarding consultation that Durham County Council (DCC) was carrying out its Council Tax setting for 2026/27 financial year. The item had been deferred from the previous meeting pending further information being obtained, particularly in relation to confirmation that DCC would continue to pay the Town Council's Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant as previously agreed. It was noted that no further information had been obtained.

Following detailed discussion Members were of the opinion that a response should be submitted to Durham County Council setting out the implications for local council tax payers if the LCTRS grant was not honoured as previously agreed.

Given the timescales involved it was suggested that the Town Clerk circulate a draft to members by email for comment before submission before the deadline.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk circulate a draft response to Members for comment, prior to submission to Durham County Council.

#### **C.118/25 INVESTORS IN PEOPLE – CONTINUATION OF ENGAGEMENT**

Detailed consideration was given to a report of the Resources Manager, which had previously been circulated, regarding continued engagement with Investors in People (IIP).

Following consideration Members were of the opinion that the decision should be deferred until the situation with regard to the budget for 2026/27 financial year was known. In the meantime it was suggested that alternative approaches to organisational development be investigated.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That the continued engagement be deferred until the budget for 2026/27 is known.
2. That in the meantime, alternative approaches to organisational development be investigated.

#### **C.119/25 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That in view of the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, the Council passed a formal resolution to exclude the press and public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 & the Local Government (Access to Information) Act, Part 1, due to the commercial and personal information contained in the report.

#### **C.120/25 SALE OF LAND AT ESSINGTON WAY – SECTION OF FORMER TREE NURSERY**

Members considered the presentation given by the potential buyer of land at Essington Way, who assured them that if purchase was approved the land would only be used to expand their current business and would not be used for residential development.

It was noted that a covenant was included in the sale to prevent residential development.

**RESOLVED:** That the sale of the land be approved on the terms previously agreed.

#### **C.121/25 REQUEST TO USE LAND AT HELFORD ROAD**

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk, which had previously been circulated, detailing action taken, in consultation with Members, concerning a request to use land at Helford Road in relation to a fireworks event.

**RESOLVED:** That the action taken, in consultation with Members, be endorsed.